

April 2024

GraceNotes

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE From the Pastor



Pastor's Page

'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place

they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' (Mark 16:6-7)

What then is such a significance of such a baptism with water? *It signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is be drowned and die through daily sorry for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever. (Luther's Small Catechism, On Baptism)*

Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

Our Easter Gospel proclaimed the messenger's Good News! Jesus has been raised. Go, tell and look for Jesus where you live.

Often, we look at Easter as the end of the story. But Easter is the beginning of the story: the story of daily dying and rising.

I have so enjoyed the beauty of Spring. Likely you have seen that bright, wonderful green that begins to shimmer in the tress, signaling the leaves beginning to burst forth. The bright yellow of the forsythia. Large swaths of daffodils, hyacinths, tulips. They bloom, and then they wither, and die. Each Fall the bursting bright green leaves fade, turn glorious colors that we also enjoy, then die, and fall. The leaves then feed the soil (even when we rake and compost them!).

In the management of forests, for many years, if there was a fallen tree, the tree would quickly be removed. But it was discovered how important the dying tree is to the eco-system of the forest. Numerous animals and insects depend on it. Its decomposition feeds the whole forest. (And those fallen leaves from the live trees provide a bed for new life to grow.)

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Wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park, and suddenly a system that had lacked one of its key components was restored, because a whole system of dying and rising was restored. Small animals that had ravaged certain plants necessary for other animals and insects to thrive were controlled by the wolves. The dying and reseeded of those restored plants provided nourishment and protection for other necessary insects and plants.

Even in human relationships, we recognize that we have to die to certain opinions, behaviors, habits, prejudices – and fears - in order for there to be new life. This is true in marriage, friendship, relationship with neighbors, even in the Church.

Martin Luther calls this pattern given to us through our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection "daily dying and rising." Richard Rohr adds this: "Things change and grow by dying to their present state, but each time it is a risk. We always wonder, "will it work this time?" [And yet] it seems to be the pattern of all growth and evolution. To be alive means to surrender to this inevitable flow." Of dying and rising.

This is where Jesus is daily ahead of us, and where life with God, life that God intends, is found. This is where our God, who is love, is found.

And so comes the resurrection LIVING we are called to as Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. Our

life is one of daily dying and rising. In my Easter sermon, we looked at the Greek word *stasis* and *ekstasis*. *Stasis* is where we currently stand, we can even say where we currently "make our stand," as a congregation, as individuals. The women on that first Resurrection morning were in *ekstasis*: "Amazement," or even ecstasy; literally, "standing in a different place." In order for them to share the Good News of resurrection, in order to overcome Fear, they had to **die** to their *stasis* and **live** into *ekstasis*, a different place from which to see life.

What is that for us, both as individuals, and as God's people gathered at Grace? What needs to die, in order for you, in order for our congregation to continue to live on, with Jesus lovingly ahead of us, his Spirit guiding us? *How does God's perfect resurrection love, cast out our fears?* These are our Easter questions to answer, whether we are talking about the world around us, the troubles and concerns of daily life, or things as "nuts and bolts" as Grace's finances, our ministries; or our being a Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of [the Resurrected, **he is not dead he is raised**] Jesus. As we'll discover once again, the disciples found newness of life as they recognized Jesus Alive, as they died to their fears, and found confidence in the truth of what we say this Easter Season: **Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

2023 and 2024 Budget Shortfall!!!

Embracing Grace - Generous, Loving, and Caring 2023 Year End Update

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church continues to be a beacon of hope in our community. Your generous time, talent, and financial gifts allow us to reach inside and outside the church to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The 2023 Budget was developed based on the 2022 Stewardship Campaign. The 2022 theme, ***“Embracing Grace - Generous, Loving, and Caring”*** was a great success and we were able to move forward with the recommended budget from the Finance Committee for 2023.

November and December of 2023, usually very good months for gifts to the church, proved not to be the case this year. For the first time in 10+ years, the November and December financial gifts did not meet the expectations. The loss of income created a \$20,000 deficit to the 2023 budget. The Church Council voted to reach into the Master Reserve Account to meet the expenses generated in the 2023 budget. ***This was a major expenditure from our reserves.***

With only two (2) months into the 2024 Church year, our budget is already \$6,000+ in the red as our giving continues to show a shortfall.

As each of us reflects on the past and current year, please consider a one time gift towards the 2023 budget to rebuild the Master Reserve Account. The impact of your additional gifts will help us ensure a strong financial balance as we move into 2024.

The needs for our congregation and community are many, but with God’s mission at the forefront, we can continue to “Embrace Grace - through our generosity, deep love for Christ, and a caring heart for those in need”.

**YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!**



Synod Assembly is in April - Online! - The Virginia Synod Assembly is a yearly event in which we learn about the Ministry of our Synod. We also learn about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and tend to necessary business - such as electing delegates to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2025. *We need two (2) delegates to attend the four hour, completely ONLINE Assembly being held Saturday, April 27th.* Please let Pastor, Council President Robin Crowder, or the Church Office know if you are interested, or would like more information.



New Website for Grace - We are excited to present a new updated website for Grace: gelcwaynesboro.org. And we're thankful to Roger Gonzalez, who has extensive experience with media and technology, who is helping Grace to maintain its site on a regular basis. Take a look, and use the website for regular updates, calendar, announcements, etc.



Columbarium Niches Available! - thanks to Brad Keefer and Ron Almarode's presentation at First Sunday Fellowship, we learned the cost of burial and expenses of our final resting place in this area. Grace's Columbarium offers a beautiful space as well as a greatly reduced cost compared to other options. Prices will go up this Summer compared to current pricing (\$2,250). Consider your final plans now, and the Grace Columbarium.



New Tree at Grace Dedicated Sunday, April 7 - Deaconness Phyllis Cox, chairperson of the Virginia Synod's Tapestry Committee (dedicated to Justice issues), is offering Grace a tree to replace one of our trees which died since their planting when our parking lot was re-paved. This Dedication will follow worship today, and we invite you to be a part! ***First Sunday Fellowship will follow in the Fellowship Hall.***



Adult Bible Class will resume Thursday, April 11th, studying the texts for the coming Sunday. Join us!



Flowers—Each week we have flowers to remind us of the Resurrection, that God has raised us up, that God has created a very good world for us to live in. We need your help, sign up today on the Flower Chart in the Nave!



Showcase your volunteer organization - We are holding our next Quarterly Community Support Info Ministry Fellowships on April 21st. We are looking for two (2) to three (3) community volunteer groups to present their mission and work in Waynesboro. In January, we had the a wonderful discussion with the Lifeworks Project Bread Basket (<https://www.thelifeworksproject.org/s-projects-basic>) and Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta (<https://www.renewinghomes.org/>). This is an opportunity for Grace members to introduce their volunteer organizations to our congregation, helping those interested in learning about more ways to contribute to our community. Each group will provide a ten (10) minute overview of their work, who they serve, and volunteer tasks, followed by fellowship and light refreshments. To participate, sign up your organization on the signup sheet at the back of the church. Any questions, contact Donna Yobs or Karen Walck



If you have a **graduate** in your family, please let the church office know the following **by Monday, May 6**: student's name, parents' names, school, degree, graduation date and plans for the future. Thank you!



Food Pantry Collections: A huge thanks to everyone as you continue to bring food for the food bank box near the office. To date, we have collected over **4,210** pounds of food (we have made *forty* deliveries, seventeen to Main Street United Methodist, and twenty-three to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft).

At a First Sunday Fellowship in February, we heard a presentation from Adrienne and A. J. Young on the River City Bread Basket/ Lifeworks Project. This is a place for people who may not meet the qualifications for services to receive free food. Their goal is to serve everyone who enters the doors and those in Waynesboro's East End who are in walking distance to the pantry.

On Saturday, March 2, several Grace members toured the Bread Basket across from Christ Tabernacle. Several things that they don't receive often from donations or the food bank include condiments, such as mayonnaise, mustard, catsup and salad dressings. Small sizes of these items are requested. We would like to add these to our food collection. There will be a box near the existing food box in the church office hallway for these items.





Grace and peace in the name of Christ,

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary has announced on its website that it is planning to move from Columbia, South Carolina, to the main campus of Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina early next year. The final approval of the move will come from the university's trustees later this month.

This is hard news for some of us, perhaps especially those of us who were formed on the campus in Columbia and have precious memories of those spaces and places. Even in the midst of sadness, however, I am giving thanks that our beloved seminary, which has a long history of pilgrimage, will go on to have a new chapter in Hickory.

At their invitation, Lenoir-Rhyne and LTSS leaders met with Region 9 Bishops. I was not able to attend due to a prior commitment but learned of the news shortly after the meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to share their plan and ask for advice, and their reasons for the move are clear. By embedding the seminary on the campus in Hickory, Lenoir-Rhyne will save about \$2.1 million per year in operating costs and eliminate significant deferred maintenance costs on the Columbia campus. That campus is far larger than the seminary's current program requires, especially since, like other mainline seminaries, LTSS now enrolls many hybrid and commuter students.

Lenoir-Rhyne University leaders have assured me that this is not downsizing or a change in the seminary's curriculum or strategic plan. In fact, by saving in operating costs, the seminary hopes to be able to expand its program in the years to come. I am also glad to report that all current full-time teaching and library faculty as well as full-time LTSS staff will be offered employment at the seminary in Hickory and will receive some assistance with relocation.

The library's collection will move to Hickory along with the seminary, and the seminary's Advisory Council and Alumni Board will help create thoughtful ways to integrate artifacts from the Columbia campus, including the library and chapel, in Hickory. Lenoir-Rhyne is prepared to invest in dedicated space for the seminary in Hickory and wants to develop those plans in conversation with faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

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I believe that LTSS in Hickory will offer important resources to the ELCA and to our synod. Embedding the seminary on a lively college campus will help it realize its goal of being a living laboratory for public ministry. In Hickory, seminary students will be able to build their capacity for ministry with classes in Spanish language and culture; business; counseling; environmental and health sciences; and other disciplines that provide context and grounding that our pastors urgently need. I look forward to visiting LTSS on a vibrant campus where leaders from our synod and beyond can participate in creative and robust lifelong learning opportunities.

The Rev. Dr. Chad Rimmer became LTSS's dean and rector last spring. Discussions about how to assure the seminary's sustainability were already underway when he arrived, and I have full confidence that he will lead the seminary well through this transition. In a letter to LTSS alumni on Friday, Chad framed the issue well, and I want to close by sharing some of his words with you:

Along the way, I will encourage you to keep your eyes on 2030. This year will be the 200th anniversary of the seminary's founding in Pomaria, South Carolina. 2030 will also be the 500th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession. Making this move will ensure that we are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the seminary in a way that looks to the next 200 years. And we will be embodying the genius of the Lutheran tradition that emerged from the nexus between the church, the academy, and the public space. *Semper reformanda*. This move can position LTSS to be a flagship of the next stage in this faithful tradition.

As LTSS's move to Hickory unfolds, I hope that you will join me in praying for the students, staff, faculty, and alumni who are most deeply affected by the changes now underway. At the same time, I invite you to share in the celebration that we can now look forward to 2030 and beyond knowing that the seminary we love so well will be around to form pastors and leaders for our congregations far into the future.

Thank you for your faithful leadership. Know that even as the church changes, God's love for us endures forever.

In Christ,
Phyllis Blair Milton
Bishop of the Virginia Synod









Budget Barometer— February 2024

For the year, actual receipts are below budget and actual disbursements are below budget, resulting in a **deficit of \$6,330.42**

| Comparison to Prior Year: Financial Barometer | Actual 2023 | Actual 2024 | Difference |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total Budget Receipts YTD | \$49,268 | \$47,317 | (\$1,951) |
| Total Budget Disbursed YTD | \$54,763 | \$53,648 | (\$1,115) |
| | (\$5,494) | (\$6,330) | |














| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| <p>31</p> <p>Easter Sunday</p> <p>6:45 a.m. Sunrise Service</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> | <p>1</p> <p>Easter Monday</p>  | <p>2</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)</p>  <p>7:00 p.m. Round Tables (Fellowship Hall)</p> | <p>3</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Backpacks</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga</p> <p>6:30 p.m. MEF Committee (Conference Room)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p> | <p>4</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> | <p>5</p>  | <p>6</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> |
| <p>7</p> <p>Second Sunday of Easter</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult SS</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>First Sunday Fellowship</p> <p>11:10 a.m. Confirmation Class</p> <p>11:15 a.m. K-5 SS</p> | <p>8</p> <p>7:00 p.m. All God's Children (Conference Room)</p>  | <p>9</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)</p>  <p>4:00 p.m. Finance Committee (Conference Room)</p> | <p>10</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p> | <p>11</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Virginia Organizing (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Bible Study (Conference Room)</p> | <p>12</p>  | <p>13</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> |

april



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| <p>Third Sunday of Easter</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>11:10 a.m. Confirmation Class</p> <p>11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday School</p> |  | <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)</p>  <p>QUILTING GROUP</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Council (Conference Room and Zoom)</p>  <p>Church Council</p> | <p>9:00 a.m. School Backpacks</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p> <p>10:15 a.m. Encircle (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Women's Book Group (Stella, Bella and Lucy)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p> | <p>8:00 a.m. Newcomers Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Virginia Organizing (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Bible Study (Conference Room)</p> |  | <p>11:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconcil. (Constitution Park)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| <p>21</p> <p>Fourth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>Quarterly Community Information Support Fellowship</p> <p>11:10 a.m. Confirmation Class</p> <p>11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday School</p> | <p>22</p> <p>7:00 p.m. All God's Children (Conference Room)</p>  | <p>23</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)</p>  <p>QUILTING GROUP</p> | <p>24</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p> | <p>25</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Bible Study (Conference Room)</p> | <p>26</p>  | <p>27</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Synod Assembly (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> |
| <p>28</p> <p>Fifth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>11:10 a.m. Confirmation Class</p> <p>11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)</p>  <p>QUILTING GROUP</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Worship and Music (Conference Room)</p> | <p>1</p> <p>9:00 a.m. School Backpacks</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p> | <p>2</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Bible Study (Conference Room)</p> | <p>3</p>  | <p>4</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> |



Birthdays

| | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|------------------|
| 4/6 | Karen Walck | 4/7 | Quinn Franklin |
| 4/8 | Peggy Caister | 4/12 | Isaac Denis |
| 4/13 | Amy Warren | 4/13 | Laura Shaw |
| 4/15 | Brad Hull | 4/18 | Sandra Hoy |
| 4/18 | Jerry Kite | 4/18 | Maella Hilker |
| 4/18 | Farrah Smith | 4/18 | Jake Dolan |
| 4/19 | Glenn Myers | 4/20 | Trotter Franklin |
| 4/24 | Roxanne Myers | 4/26 | Karen Van Stee |
| 4/28 | Betty Karol Wilson | | |



| | | | |
|------|-----------------|------|------------------|
| 4/3 | Brad Keefer | 4/4 | Aaron Lynch |
| 4/6 | Bobby Hite | 4/7 | Alex Skelton |
| 4/7 | Paige Smith | 4/7 | Jenna Smith |
| 4/9 | Frannie Knicely | 4/11 | E. G. Rankin |
| 4/11 | Owen Keefer | 4/11 | Sharon Lynch |
| 4/11 | Kiera Mahoney | 4/12 | Carol Varner |
| 4/14 | Tom Carper | 4/14 | Katie Morrison |
| 4/14 | Donna Gum | 4/16 | Kaitlyn Hull |
| 4/19 | Kate Van Bremen | 4/20 | Ashley Stollings |
| 4/26 | Carolyn Shields | 4/26 | Susan Smith |
| 4/28 | Kim Hull | 4/29 | Anne Barnes |



April 7

Second Sunday of
Easter

**Preaching and
Presiding**

Pastor Paul Pingel

Altar Flowers

Gail Johnson

Altar Guild

Nelsons

Assisting Minister

Kathy Bump

**Communion
Assistants**

Carolyn Hite

Lew Yobs

**Council
Person
of the Week**

Linda Meyer

**Offering
Stewards**

Pat Brady

Robin Crowder

Ushers

Maella Hilker

Gail Johnson

Jerry Kite

April 14

Third Sunday of
Easter

**Preaching and
Presiding**

Pastor Paul Pingel

Altar Flowers

Pat Giesen

Altar Guild

Susan Myers

Assisting Minister

Tami Radecke

**Communion
Assistants**

Kathy Bump

Andrew Sell

**Council
Person
of the Week**

Jean Morgan

**Offering
Stewards**

Pat Brady

David Proctor

Ushers

Rick Bump

Linda Meyer

April 21

Fourth Sunday of
Easter

**Preaching and
Presiding**

Pastor Paul Pingel

Altar Flowers

Schwiesows

Altar Guild

Glen & Lisa Gray

Assisting Minister

Ron Almarode

**Communion
Assistants**

Karen Walck

Lew Yobs

**Council
Person
of the Week**

Susan Myers

Offering Stewards

Pat Brady

Jean Morgan

Ushers

Pat Brady

Jean Morgan

April 28

Fifth Sunday of
Easter

**Worship Service
will be at**

Christ Tabernacle

Stephen Van Stee

**Offering
Stewards**

Pat Brady

Vivian Proctor



*Nursing Home,
Assisted Living and
Homebound Members*

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Genevieve Arneson 220 Adventure Trail Waynesboro, VA 22980</p> | <p>LizAnn Binns The Legacy 1410a North Augusta Street Apartment 3027 Staunton, VA 24401</p> |
| <p>Maribeth Faivre Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Apt. 130 Waynesboro, VA 22980</p> | <p>Sandra Hoy River Edge Rehabilitation and Nursing, Room 210 1221 Rosser Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980</p> |
| <p>Phyllis Kite Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Room 9 Waynesboro, VA 22980</p> | <p>Glenn Myers 144 Patton Farm Road, Apt. E107 Stuarts Draft, VA 24477</p> |
| <p>Carolyn Shields Brightview 21 Woodlee Road, Apt. 331 Staunton, VA 24401</p> | <p>Dr. & Mrs. Tom Varner Aviva (Brightview) 31 Woodlee Rd, Apt. 210 Staunton, VA 24401</p> |

GraceNotes

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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
500 South Wayne Avenue
Waynesboro, VA 22980

LABEL



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

"A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus."

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GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro

gelcwaynesboro.org

Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net

Telephone: 540.949.6171

Church Office Hours

Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
(Lunch 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.)

Church Staff

Rev. Paul Pingel
Pastor

Email: pastoringel@gmail.com

Mike Myers
Organist

Director of Music

Email: mickhdking@aol.com

Nancy Dowdy
Administrative Secretary

Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net